

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for adding devices to a power management control system, said method comprising the steps of:

prompting a user to create a project;

prompting the user to add devices to the project;

executing a file to automatically configure the devices;

generating screens for the devices added to the project;

determining, by the power management control system, whether a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol is installed within the project;

automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the devices and the screens; and

restarting, by a ~~programmable device~~computer, the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing said devices.

2. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of prompting a user to create a new project comprises the step of prompting the user with a Power Builder option.

3. (original) A method according to Claim 2 further comprising the step of prompting the user with file selections available for execution, the file selections including a PCMS Power Builder file selection.

4. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of prompting the user to add devices comprises the step of prompting a user to enter at least one of a device name, a device description, a device type, a resource and an application name for at least one of the devices.

5. (original) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of prompting a user to enter names and descriptions for the devices added to the project.

6. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of generating screens for the devices further comprises the steps of:

creating points associated with the devices;

generating a main menu screen which contains pre-configured small faceplate template wizards for the devices; and

generating template wizard screens for the devices.

7. (currently amended) A power control management system comprising:

a control computer;

at least one intelligent end device interfaced to said control computer for controlling and monitoring power; and

a software package comprising a user interface, an applications layer, an operating system and a Power Builder for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected intelligent end devices to said power management control system, said Power Builder configured to build external applications onto a power management control project framework, automatically create points associated with said selected intelligent end devices, generate main menu screens for said selected intelligent end devices, ~~and restart~~ restart a project to which said at least one intelligent end device is added after at least one of adding, deleting and changing said at least one intelligent end device, and install a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol within the project upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project, wherein said software package is configured to automatically update a configuration of at least one of said selected intelligent end devices, said points, and said screens.

8. (original) A system according to Claim 7 wherein said Power Builder configured to facilitate selection of a Power Builder function.

9. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 7 wherein said Power Builder configured to facilitate selection of said at least one intelligent end device to add to said power management control system.

10. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 9 wherein said Power Builder configured to facilitate entry of device data of at least one of a device name, a device type, a description of at least one of said selected intelligent end devices, a resource for at least one of said selected intelligent end devices, and an application name for at least one of said selected intelligent end devices.

11. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 9 wherein said Power Builder configured to:

install an advanced dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol to ~~a project~~the project to which said selected intelligent end devices are added;

create a master DDE port for the project;

create a resource name within the project;

create a DDE device within the project; and

import a set of points from a configuration file associated with at least one of said selected intelligent end devices.

12. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 9 wherein said Power Builder configured with a list of configurable devices, a wizard file, a data file with points to be imported for at least one of said selected intelligent end devices to be added, flags and an event log from an initialization file.

13. (original) A system according to Claim 12 wherein said Power Builder configured with a device initialization file.

14. (original) A system according to Claim 7 wherein said Power Builder configured to facilitate viewing of configured devices using HMI files.

15. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 7 wherein said Power Builder configured with a template wizard to generate a small faceplate for at least one of said selected intelligent end devices.

16. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 7 wherein said Power Builder configured to update a configuration for the project.

17. (currently amended) A computer programmed to:

prompt a user to create a project;

prompt the user to select devices to be added to the project;

configure the selected devices;

generate screens for the selected devices;

determine whether a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol is installed within the project;

automatically update a configuration of at least one of the selected devices and the screens; and

restart the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the selected devices.

18. (original) A computer according to Claim 17 wherein to prompt a user to create a project, said computer displays a computer generated screen with a selectable Power Builder function.

19. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 17 wherein to configure the selected devices, said computer displays at least one computer generated screen prompting a user to enter at least one of a device name, a device type, a description of at least one of the selected devices, a resource for at least one of the selected devices, and an application name for at least one of the selected devices.

20. (original) A computer according to Claim 17 wherein to generate screens for the selected devices, said computer displays a computer generated screen prompting a user to generate the screens.

21. (currently amended) A method for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected devices to a power management control system, said method comprising the steps of:

building an external application onto a project framework, wherein said building comprises:

automatically configuring components associated with devices;

generating main menu screens for the devices; and

automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the components and the ~~devices; and~~devices;

restarting, by a ~~programmable device~~computer, a project to which the devices are added after at least one of adding, deleting and, ~~changing the devices~~devices; and

installing, by the power management control system, a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol within the project upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project.

22. (original) A method according to Claim 21 wherein said step of building an external application onto a project framework further comprises the step of selecting a Power Builder function.

23. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 21 further comprising:

automatically creating points associated with the devices; and

selecting the devices to add to a project.

24. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein said step of selecting the devices to add to the project further comprises the step of

entering device data of at least one of a device name, a device type, a description of at least one of the devices, a resource for at least one of the devices, and an application name for at least one of the devices.

25. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 23 further comprising the steps of:

installing an advanced dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol to the project;

creating a master DDE port for the project;

creating a resource name within the project;

creating a DDE device within the project; and

importing a set of points from a configuration file associated with the DDE device.

26. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein said step of selecting the devices to add to the project further comprises the step of reading a list of configurable devices, a wizard file, a data file with points to be imported for at least one of the devices to be added, flags and an event log from an initialization file.

27. (original) A method according to Claim 26 further comprising the step of reading a device initialization file.

28. (original) A method according to Claim 26 further comprising the step of viewing configured devices using HMI files.

29. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 21 wherein said step of generating main menu screens further comprises the step of using a template wizard to generate a small faceplate for at least one of the devices.

30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising automatically determining whether at least one of a communication port, a communication protocol, and a resource name exists within the project.

32. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 31 further comprising performing at least one of:

automatically creating the communication port on determining that the communication port does not exist;

automatically creating the communication protocol on determining that the communication protocol does not exist; and

automatically creating the resource name on determining that the resource name does not exist.

33. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising:

automatically creating points associated with the devices; and

automatically updating a configuration of the points.

34. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 7 wherein said software package is configured to determine whether at least one of a communication port, a communication protocol, and a resource name exist, and said communication port, said communication protocol, and said resource name associated with at least one of said selected intelligent end devices.

35. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 34 wherein said software package is configured to perform at least one of:

create said communication port on determining that said communication port does not exist;

create said communication protocol on determining that said communication protocol does not exist; and

create said resource name on determining that said resource name does not exist.

36. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 17, said computer programmed to determine whether at least one of a communication port, a communication protocol, and a resource name exists within the project.

37. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 36, said computer programmed to perform at least one of:

create said communication port on determining that said communication port does not exist;

create said communication protocol on determining that said communication protocol does not exist; and

create said resource name on determining that said resource name does not exist.

38. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 21 further comprising determining whether at least one of a communication port, a communication protocol, and a resource name exists, wherein the communication port, communication protocol, and resource name are associated with at least one of the devices.

39. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 38 further comprising performing at least one of:

automatically creating the communication port on determining that the communication port does not exist;

automatically creating the communication protocol on determining that the communication protocol does not exist; and

automatically creating the resource name on determining that the resource name does not exist.